

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 12th September 1908.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th September is gratified to learn that old China is going to shake off her lethargy and have a constitutional form of government. According to the royal declaration, the time of its introduction has already been fixed.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 6th, 1908.

With the rise of Japan, the East has awakened, and it is hoped that the golden rays of the new sun of China will embrace and glorify the whole of the vast continent of Asia.

2. The *Jagaran* [Bagerhat] of the 6th September observes that it is very gratifying to notice that, while the people of Europe had to wrench political rights from their kings by bloodshed, the people of Asia are getting them as favours from their rulers. When is India destined to have self-government?

JAGARAN,
Sept. 6th, 1908.

Self-government acquired without bloodshed in Asia.

had to wrench political rights from their kings by bloodshed, the people of Asia are getting them as favours from their rulers. When is India destined to have self-government?

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. In connection with the famine prevailing in the United Provinces, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September refers to the last letter of Lala Lajpat Rai, complaining against the conduct of the Police who are said to be giving a good deal of trouble to his party working in the famine-stricken areas of those Provinces, and asks: "Is the internal administration of Sir John Hewitt so bad?" The paper is, however, reluctant to believe that such is the case, and attributes the police conduct to the over-zeal of subordinate officers.

HITVARTA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

The Police interfering with the relief of famine in the United Provinces.

The paper then asks His Honour to hold a public enquiry into the matter and punish the offenders who are trying to snatch away the morsel of the unhappy people of his Provinces.

4. Referring to the sensational incidents at Midnapore, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September says that all the miseries which might be expected to follow under a police rule, are now being witnessed at Midnapore. His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser should personally visit Midnapore once, or if that be impossible, at least send His Honour's Chief Secretary there. If violence is done to the honour of respectable men at the instigation of the police, very serious disturbances must follow in the country.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

Incidents in Midnapore.

5. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 5th September publishes detailed accounts of the sensational incidents at Midnapore and describes how the police are trying to secure confessions and obtain evidence incriminating the arrested persons, threatening those who refuse to give such evidence. While the police are making indiscriminate arrests, the authorities are silently looking on. So great is the alarm, that if this state of affairs continues for some time longer, some Midnapore man will surely come forward to give evidence in favour of the police. Sir Andrew Fraser is requested to allay the panic by instituting an inquiry into all the circumstances.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The doings of the police in Midnapore.

6. Referring to the panic-stricken condition of the people of Midnapore the *Sonar Bharat* [Howrah] of the 5th September remarks that most of the arrested persons never joined in any political movement, not to speak of the Extremist propaganda, and in the searches made nothing incriminating has been found. The paper further says that some of the arrests have been made on very flimsy grounds, and that the rumour is rife that many more arrests will be made. The paper professes ignorance of the causes that have led to these arrests, and presumes that any one who is named by Santosh and Surendra will be forthwith arrested, however innocent he may be. The paper seems to believe the rumour that the police had recourse to oppression with a view to securing confessions, and goes on to say that the police are publicly threatening

SONAR BHARAT,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Proceedings of the police in Midnapore.

people with dire consequences if they do not side with them and if they in any way help their victims. In fact the police have arrested those very persons—lawyers and others—who came forward to stand surety for those who had been arrested on the first occasion. None of the arrested persons have been granted bail, and the general belief is that any pleader or mukhtear who will have the hardihood to take up their cases will be persecuted. Repeated appeals to the authorities have been of no avail. The paper expresses surprise at the arrest of such a man of high position and character as the Raja of Narajole, and characterises the Midnapore proceedings as dreadful and tyrannical.

JAGARAN,
Sept. 6th, 1908.

7. The *Jagaran* [Bagerhat] of the 6th September is sorry to have to

Police *zulm* in Midnapore.

remark that Midnapore is under the influence of an evil star. From the Raja of Narajole down to ordinary students many respectable persons are being arrested there on charges of sedition, and they are all kept in the lock-up. The houses of local gentlemen are being daily searched for the discovery of bombs. All this police *zulm* is due to the fact that Midnapore is the birth-place of some of the leading accused in the bomb case. The placing of undue power in the hands of the police in these bad times has much to do with the spread of the present unrest. The paper believes that no disaffection can last long, if the balance of justice is held even and the just rights of the people are not interfered with. Why should the innocent suffer for the waywardness of a few Bengali youths? Surely the Government do not wish to shake the popular faith in British justice.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 8th, 1908.

8. IN the course of an article entitled "Police rule in Midnapore," the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th September writes:—

Police rule in Midnapore.

Ever since the partition of Bengal, various have been the exhibitions of the irresistible power of the officials, but the terror which certain actions of the officials have lately struck into the hearts of the Midnapore public is unparalleled in the annals of British rule. Even in these times of excitement, the incidents at Midnapore have called forth emotions of wonder and indignation all over Bengal. Indeed, even the assassination of Narendra Gossain and the Alipore bomb case seem to have lost public interest relatively for the moment.

The paper then proceeds to refer to the arrest of Raja Narendra Lall Khan and to narrate how this arrest has followed on the statements of two men already in *hajrat*, which statements were afterwards retracted; and how the Magistrate refused to supply the Raja's Counsel with copies of these statements, because that might hinder the police from unravelling the plot.

Continuing, the paper remarks:—How terrible! One is not to learn why one is arrested, because that might make it difficult for the police to lay the crime bare. Are then the police arresting without enquiry everybody who is being named by the informers? Arrest before inquiry is a rarity even in the most lawless *regimes*, not to speak of a settled rule like that of the British. Even the most ardent Anglo-Indian Imperialist must acknowledge that arresting respectable men before inquiry is not very creditable to the repute of the British Raj.

What has most surprised and grieved us in this matter, however, is not the conduct of the police, but the attitude of the Sessions Judge in referring the Raja's Counsel, when he applied for bail, back to the Joint-Magistrate who had already rejected the appeal, instead of looking into the matter himself.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 8th, 1908.

9. A correspondent of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 8th September

Depredations of a tiger.

draws attention to the loss of human lives and of cattle caused by the depredations of a big tiger in the villages of Baraschal and Uttarpahar, in Moulvi Bazar Subdivision.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

10. With reference to the sentence of a month's imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 100 passed upon Fireman Davis by the

The judgment in the Delhi *punkha-coolie* case.

District Magistrate of Delhi for causing the death of the *punkha-coolie* Karan Singh, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September has the following:—

The Magistrate in his judgment says:—"The death of Karan Singh was due simply to the rupture of his spleen." We now see that Davis was

not to blame, and that Karan Singh was the man really guilty. Why did he go to work as a *punkha-coolie* with so large a spleen? The Magistrate has inflicted the very severe punishment of a month's rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 100 in addition. But we think the accused should have been let off with a warning, as this was his first offence. But the question is how will the public take the result of this trial? They may infer from it that persons suffering from enlargement of the spleen or from other incurable diseases may be killed without any offence being committed. The Magistrate has ordered that the fine, when realised, should be paid to the deceased's widow as compensation. What kindness this! The life of a *kala admi* is worth one hundred rupees!

The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 2nd September also considers the sentence passed in the case to be too inadequate and as affording an instance of the usual partiality of white Judges to white murderers of black natives.

JASOHAR,
Sept. 2nd, 1908.

11. Referring to the sentence of three years' rigorous imprisonment passed on the accused in the Sonai Bazar bomb case by Mr. Beachcroft, the Sessions Judge of Alipore, against the opinions of both the Assessors, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

Mr. Beachcroft readily believed the allegations of the prosecution, but could not believe the story of the defence, although it was a most plausible one. The fact is that it has not been satisfactorily proved that the explosive substances were found in the possession of the accused. Dost Mahommad, the witness for the prosecution, being an unemployed man, might have asked for clothing from the accused on credit, and not getting it, he might have tried to wreak vengeance on him. Dost Mahommad said he knew Nassir Khan, the Head-constable of the Bow Bazar thana. It is quite possible that a man who had no employment should, in consultation with a Police officer, conspire against another for a reward. Mr. Beachcroft paid no attention to these considerations. That the case is a suspicious one admits of no doubt. As both the Assessors declared the accused "not guilty," and as an element of doubt hung about the case, the best course for Mr. Beachcroft would have been to send the case up to the High Court.

12. Commenting on the same case, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 4th September points out that Mr. Beachcroft, the Judge who tried the case, disregarded the opinion of the Assessors, as he disregarded the verdict of the Jurors in the case of Durga Charan Sanyal. If such is the way in which the opinions of Jurors and Assessors are treated, it is not clear what makes educated men seek appointments in those capacities. Let it be remembered that it is this same Mr. Beachcroft who is to try the first batch of the bomb conspirators.

SAMAY,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

13. In referring to the fine lately imposed by the Fourth Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta on a number of boys under the Press Act for having printed a leaflet appealing for funds for famine-relief in Midnapur without the name of the press on it, the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes:—

SAMAY,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

The pen refuses to move at the sight of the perversity and lunacy which Magistrates are now displaying in trying offences under the Press Act.

14. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

The District Magistrate of Alipur has, in imitation of the example of the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta, issued a notification prohibiting meetings in the Squares in the suburbs of Calcutta. This is perhaps the finishing stroke in the attempt to put down *swadeshi* at this *Puja* time. The miserable plight of the Manchester merchants has no doubt impelled the authorities to take this step to encourage the *belati* cloth-dealers. But the fact is that such attempts must fail to crush *swadeshi*. The more the opposition, the greater will be the determination of the people.

15. The *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 4th September has the following with reference to the reported action of the Magistrate of Khulna in failing to let out on bail a local Mukhtear, Sasi Bhusan Ray, who had been admitted to bail by the Sessions Judge:—

ANUSILAN,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

A Magistrate disobeying the order of a Sessions Judge.

the Sessions Judge:—

Is not the action of the Magistrate high-handed? This is murdering justice.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 5th September remarks on the above incident as follows:—

The audacity of the Khulna officials has really astonished us. At the present time specially, when Government seriously proposes to separate the Judicial and Executive functions, such disobedience of the District Judge's order should by no means be tolerated. The incident shows how demoralised the officers of the Executive Service have become. The strange conduct of the District Magistrate of Khulna loudly calls for a sifting enquiry.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September comments on the incident as follows:—

Such a strange conflict between the Executive and the Judiciary is unparalleled under British rule in India, and is strange even in these days of surprises in connexion with *swadeshi* cases.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 8th, 1908.

16. Referring to the manner in which the case against Mr. G. Subramanya

Iyer has been compromised, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th September remarks:—

The case against Mr. G. Subramanya Iyer. There is a story in *Æsop's Fables* of a cultivator congratulating a jackal on having saved its neck at the sacrifice only of its tail. This remark applies with great force to Mr. Iyer's case.

(c)—Jails.

SONAR BHARAT,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

17. Under the heading "Insult to god," the *Sonar Bharat* [Howrah] of the 5th September, on the authority of a corre-

A regrettable incident in the Burdwan Jail. spondent, gives details of a case of incivility on the part of Major Wilson, Superintendent of

Burdwan Jail. It was with the permission of Dr. Wilson that the Hindu warders of the Burdwan Jail had set up a *Salgram* and an image of Radha Krishna on a piece of land measuring only a yard and very close to their quarters. They were allowed to worship these in their own way till the last *Janmastami* day, and nobody objected to this mode of worship within the jail compound by the warders. On the 21st August last, however, while the warders were engaged in worshipping and presenting offerings to their gods, Dr. Wilson suddenly appeared on the scene, and in a fit of rage had the images thrown away. On the representation of the Havildar, Dr. Wilson realised the nature of the outrage he had committed, and offered to pay some money to the worshippers. This was not accepted. The Superintendent reported against the Havildar, Rudra Pandey, who was the spokesman on behalf of the aggrieved warders, and brought in the District Magistrate to the jail the next day. The warders submitted a representation to the Magistrate, and on this the Superintendent repeatedly denied having offered any insult to their gods. The paper adds that the Havildar and warders were not believed and as a sequel to the incident Havildar Rudra Pandey has been prosecuted under section 211 (Indian Penal Code).

(d)—Education.

JASOHAR,
Sept. 2nd, 1908.

18. A correspondent writes to the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 2nd September

Miseries of Circle Pandits. that the deterioration of the Circle schools is due to the want of any residences for the Circle Pandits.

As no house is available for rent in villages, they are compelled to live in the houses of local gentlemen. For this reason it is often seen that the Pandits have to repay their benefactors by serving them with greater attention than what they devote to their schools. Many times when they fail to satisfy those in whose houses they live they are turned out. Instances like this, when reported to the authorities, bring no redress.

It is desirable that the Pandits should be given thatched houses in each circle. In that case they will be able to live independently and serve in the school with whole-hearted attention. The inhabitants of any circle who are

unwilling to provide quarters for Circle Pandits should never have the privilege of having a school.

19. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September has the following:—

SANDHYA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

A text book.

The *Bangavasi* says that Rai Shahib Haran Chandra's work "Pratibha Sundari" has been selected as a text-book for the Entrance examination of the Calcutta University, and not for the Intermediate examination. It makes the matter more serious, as the study of the book will make young boys so many *Kalapahars** (iconoclasts) of the Bengali language, and altogether revolutionise the system of writing Bengali.

*An apostate from Hinduism who made himself notorious by his iconoclasticism.

20. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September writes:—

BASUMATI,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

An attack on Mr. Justice Mukerjee.

Sir Andrew Fraser has counselled the Brahmin Pandit community of Nadia to preach loyalty everywhere. The Navadwip Pandits had on a previous occasion conferred on His Honour the title of *Nyayasindhu*. This time, however, he had to return empty-handed. Let Sir Andrew appoint a number of Brahmin Pandits as his Court-pandits at Belvedere, whose duty it will be to preach loyalty. He will get a list of the names of loyal Brahmin Pandits from his most trusted friend and flatterer Ashutosh Mukerjee Saraswati, the holder of two doctorates. Probably Dr. Saraswati will not decline the office of commandant of this new regiment of Pandits. The whole of Bengal will be submerged in a flood of loyalty in a single day, if, growing a tuft of hair in the manner of the Pandits on his head, which is full of mathematical lore, he is placed at the head of this army of Pandits. And none will object if Dr. Saraswati is given monthly remuneration for his services in this connexion from India's money, for the disbursement of which nobody is responsible. We cannot really imagine why a Vice-Chancellor of the University should draw the salary of a High Court Judge. The Vice-Chancellorship has always so far been an honorary office, and why should it now be too much of a burden to be so? There is no good in store for this country and its system of administration, until its rulers learn to rise superior to the spell of flattery.

21. In referring to the selection of Dr. G. Thibaut, Registrar of the Calcutta University, as representative of India at the forthcoming International Congress on Moral Teaching in London, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September writes:—

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

An attack on Mr. Justice Mukerjee.

While we have no doubt that Dr. Thibaut will worthily represent India, we should have been glad if Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee had been selected as India's representative instead of Dr. Thibaut. We can affirm on oath that in no University in Europe or in America is there to be found any trace of the moral principle of being kind to protégés which Dr. Ashutosh has introduced into the working of the Calcutta University. If Dr. Mukerjee had made known to this Congress the high and strange moral principles of being kind to one's protégés, of rewarding flattery, of taking up an attitude of devotion to one in order to gain one's purposes, of selecting a book as a text-book because it is flatteringly dedicated to one, of bringing one's intelligent enemies to ruin, of showering favours on one's stupid friends, then indeed would a lustre have been shed on India's name, and Dr. Mukerjee for himself would have won the fame of Buddha. It is a pity that Dr. Mukerjee has risen superior to this great temptation and sent up Dr. Thibaut. Talking of Dr. Thibaut's deputation, by the way, it is a pleasure to be able to announce that Babu Girish Chandra Mukerjee, the able Assistant Registrar of the University, is to officiate as Registrar.

22. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September has the following:—

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

A "scene" at the Presidency College.

Scene—The room of the Principal, Presidency College. Present—The Principal and a number of students.

Mr. J.—My wish is that you should hold a theatrical performance before the *Puja* recess. Why do you demur thereto?

Students.—The country is now in a most lamentable pass—it is not the time for enjoyment.

Mr. J.—You object probably, because Tilak and Arabinda are in prison.

Students.—Yes, Sir. The curtain drops at this stage.

It remains to be seen what fate these students meet with in scene II. It seems strange that Mr. James did not mete out condign punishment to the students on the spot.

BHAR BANDHU,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

23. The *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipore] of the 5th September proposes to write a series of articles on the "ill-luck of Hindi," in connection with the recent interpellation about the Hindi chair in the Presidency

Hindi chair in the Presidency College.

College in the Bengal Council.

To begin with, the paper is unable to understand the disgrace of the mother-tongue of the loyal Biharis at the hands of Government, and asks if the Biharis' criers of loyalty at the top of their voice, will not approach the Government about this matter, as the Government reply cannot but cause pain to the well-wishers of Hindi.

After criticising the points of the Hon'ble Mr. Streatfeild's reply, the paper invites the leaders of the backward Biharis to carry on a brisk agitation about this matter.

HITVARTA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

24. The Government reply, says the marginally-noted paper, is quite in keeping with the replies ordinarily given both in the Supreme as well as the Bengal Council.

Ibid.

The Hindi-speaking population of Bengal consists of more than 30 millions, and the only institution which provides high education for these is the Presidency College. The paper therefore regrets that Government should not have considered the necessity of a Hindi chair in it. The reply shows the indifference with which the Government looks to the interests of these people (the Hindi-speaking subjects).

Composition as an art must be learnt. Even learned men sometimes find it difficult to express their thoughts properly. Of course students of the B.A. class would not be required to express how they would have to convey in words the workings of their mind when they feel hungry, for this they learn in their infancy. By giving expression to their thought is of course meant those thoughts which would be instilled into their mind by a study of the works of the authors of such world-wide reputation as Kalidas, Milton, Shakespeare, etc. The paper learns that a Professor of German is soon going to be appointed in the Presidency College, and asks if the number of students learning German exceed those who take up Hindi.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA
O-ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Sep. 3rd, 1908.

25. With reference to the health of Bengal, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September has the following:—

Health of Bengal.

The health of Bengal, as we come to know from a perusal of the Sanitary Commissioner's report on the subject, was far from being satisfactory last year. One need not be surprised that in a country rendered poor by constant recurrence of famine, where good drinking-water is scarce and the people are too poor to receive education, and therefore ignorant as to the rules of sanitation, the general health should be deplorable. When the Public Works cess, etc., were imposed, the Government informed us that the money thus obtained would be spent in improving the health of the villages, but we regret to observe that the assurance has never been made good.

It is seen in the Health Report of 1901 that in 154 towns (out of 217) in Bengal the death-rate exceeded the birth-rate. The condition of villages is still more deplorable. Had the dreadful death-rate been due to the impure climate of the country, we should have nothing to say. But thousands of men died of ordinary diseases, which might easily be checked by human efforts. The Government which are very zealous for police and administrative reforms, do not show the least inclination towards improving the health of the people. But they ought to understand that if the people be extirpated, there would be

no need whatever either of police or of administration. The Sanitary Commissioner has admitted the fact that this high death-rate is due to the want of good drinking-water and healthy food: 164,338 persons died of plague, pox and dysentery in the year under review. Will the Government look at this dreadful list, and realise for themselves how they have failed in their responsibilities with regard to the lives of their subject? Preservation of the ruled is the highest duty of the ruler. Sir Andrew Fraser has found money for allowing fat salaries to high police officials. He has also established an unnecessary College at Ranchi. The country wants to know what he has done for the improvement of sanitation.

Sir Andrew Fraser is now touring. Does he notice that the whole of Bengal is in the grip of famine and plague? Does not the heart-rending cries of famished people reach his ears? We know that he is receiving addresses testifying to his good and sympathetic rule. But Hastings also had such certificates and produced them in the House of Commons when impeached by the thundering voice of Burke for his inhuman oppressions. So we ask, will the addresses wash away the dark stains from the history of his administration tarnished by the miseries of the people?

We shall not be disposed to extol the Government, so long as we do not see them turning their attention to the real good of the country.

26. In agreement with the views of the late Raja Digambar Mitter, and

Malaria, the effect of Railway construction.

in opposition to the opinion expressed by the recent Drainage Committee, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September holds malaria to be caused or at

least aggravated by the blocking of the natural drainage channels of the country by the construction of high permanent ways for railways and points out how the Civil Surgeon of Murshidabad has lately put down the construction of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway as largely accountable for the growing prevalence of Malaria in that district. The paper also points out how the construction of the Eastern Bengal State Railway was followed by the silting up of a stream named the Jamuna which flowed along Gustia between Madanpur and Chakda station, and how this ultimately led to the depopulation of an extensive tract of country there. Similarly, since the construction of the Central section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, the health of Gobardanga has been steadily deteriorating. The moral of it all, according to the paper, is the absolute necessity of building wide culverts across the permanent way, so as to minimise the interference with the natural drainage of the country as far as possible.

BASUMATI,
Sep. 5th, 1908.

27. In connexion with the Calcutta Improvement Scheme, the *Daily*

Calcutta Municipal finance.

Hitavadi [Calcutta] of the 8th September writes that a similar improvement scheme for Simla has lately

been undertaken at the expense directly of Government, because the bigger rate-payers of Simla are all Europeans. In Calcutta, however, the Government is unwilling to pay, because there are Indian rate-payers who can pay, and it has been decided to saddle the Calcutta Corporation with the main share of the expenses of the scheme. The Corporation is however already committed to heavy disbursements on new water-works schemes, etc., and its present financial condition is most lamentable. In fact it can hardly meet its current expenditure out of its income, and large as its income is, it is almost insolvent. Furthermore the rate-payers, at least 90 per cent. of them, live from hand to mouth, and it is the opinion of men who know that they are very heavily taxed as it is, and cannot be taxed any more. None the less the revision of the assessments on premises and lands every six years is steadily raising the amount of the rates, and things have now come to a pass where any further taxation will compel many citizens to leave the city. The Corporation knows this, and so like the vampire which sucks the blood out of a man after fanning him to sleep, it is devising schemes whereby the rate-payers may be made to pay more taxes without quite knowing it. It is trying in short to gain its purpose without directly imposing a new tax or adding to the existing taxes.

DAILY HITAVADI,
[Sept. 8th, 1908.]

28. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 8th September has a letter, complaining

Wanted medical relief in Sylhet.

that the Barachal pargana, in Sylhet, is being almost decimated by malaria. Four to five

SANDHYA,
Sept. 8th, 1908.

hundred deaths have occurred in the course of the last 2 or 3 months. There is no state-aided dispensary or hospital here, nor are the services of any efficient private medical practitioner available.

(g)—*Railway and Communications including Canals and Irrigation.*

SANDHYA
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

29. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September, in a leading article, deals with the Sara Bridge project. The paper begins by saying that the course of the river

Padma is very uncertain, and it is not possible to bridge it. It then goes on to observe that such a distinguished Engineer as Sir Bradford Leslie, gave it as his opinion that if the river is bridged over at Sara, and if that results in turning its course either to the south or to the north, the consequences will be disastrous, and there is no knowing to what a large area of the country it will bring ruin and destruction.

The paper is of opinion that a bridge on the Padma will not last long. It will not be more than 10 years after the construction of the bridge that the river will change its course, destroying a part of the neighbouring country. And it will be found that in vain the bridge was constructed at an enormous outlay. Before suddenly undertaking the work, the Government ought to think over the future possibilities, and that because it is in duty bound to protect its subjects and prevent the country being swallowed by the river.

The opinions of the European mercantile community on the question cannot be accepted. They are actuated by selfish motives and the paper proceeds to observe that it will not be safe to bridge the river on any south-eastern point beyond Godagiri. It will be safe to construct the bridge on the Ganges east of the Chapghati mouth. Any attempt to bridge the Padma will result in evil consequences. The paper is of opinion that the Government puts more value on European trade interest than on the lives of its subjects; that there is nothing which it cannot accomplish at the bidding of the European mercantile community and that it can find money to bridge the Padma, nay even the Megna, but has no money to improve the sanitation of rural areas and prevent further spread of malaria. The paper professes to have learnt much about the European character from the discussions on the Sara Bridge project, and finds that Anglo-Indian journals, supported and patronised as they are by the European mercantile community, are beside themselves, and seriously takes it as a fact that the Government does not bestow a thought on questions affecting the life and death of the people of the country.

SANDHYA,
Sep. 5th, 1908.

The Sara Bridge controversy.

scheme :—

The Sara Bridge Commission has recommended the construction of the bridge, and Government will surely oblige the *Feringhi* merchants by laying out the money necessary for carrying out the project. But Government will be a loser, first by having to advance the huge cost of the bridge, and secondly by being deprived of the money which the Rothchilds Company would have paid, if the Eastern Bengal State Railway had been leased out to them. The Anglo-Indian papers are no doubt taxing Government severely for its vacillation. We would ask the *Feringhi* merchants to realise, now that they are so terribly exercised by the Sara Bridge controversy, how painful must be the feelings of a man when his dear interests are threatened. Let them consider how we felt when Bengal was partitioned. But the Anglo-Indians did not then hesitate to ride rough-shod over our feelings. We must now ask the Government not to listen to the rigmarole of the Anglo-Indian mercantile community, behind whom wire-pullers are actively at work. Government should accept the offer of the Rothchilds Company. We have made it a point to oppose the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in every movement which it may undertake and expose it before Government.

30. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 5th September writes as follows about the Sara Bridge

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31. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th September, after observing that the proposal of constructing a bridge over the Padma is going to be finally decided this

The Padma Bridge.

time, says:—"Some of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries are getting vexed and angry to see that proposals regarding the construction of the bridge are being continually put forward. But we find no reason for this anger and vexation. The course of the Padma is so very liable to change, that even if the proposal is carried into effect and a bridge is constructed after much selection, nobody can be absolutely certain about the fate of such a bridge. Of course the impatience shown by the white merchants at the delay in the construction is quite natural.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sep. 7th, 1908.

32. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September makes the Ghaziabad Railway disaster the text of a leading article. The Meerut Magistrate, who held the

Railway accidents.

preliminary enquiry into the matter, has secured the approbation of this paper for the impartiality with which he conducted the enquiry, and also for committing the Railway officials of the two stations, Ghaziabad and Dusna, who by their culpable negligence brought about the accident. The high officials of the Railway were anxious to reduce the magnitude of the disaster, and the paper also gives it as a fact that on every occasion where an accident takes place, the Railway officials are found ready to reduce the number of the dead and injured. The paper makes much of the fact that Government is apathetic towards the preservation of lives of the people, and asks whether in case the trial of the men committed to the Sessions in connection with the Ghaziabad disaster should disclose culpability in the action of the Railway officials and secure conviction of the men awaiting trial, the Government will come forward and make the Railway authorities pay compensation and damages to the near and dear ones of the dead and injured? If the Magistrate of Meerut were not a good man with the courage of his conviction, nobody would have heard anything further of the victims of the Ghaziabad disaster. If the Government fail to take serious notice of the Ghaziabad disaster, it is to be understood that they put very little value on the lives of our people. And the paper finally adds that it did not know before this that questions affecting the life and death of the subject-people does not for a moment engage the attention of the Government.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

33. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September endorses the opinion expressed by the District Magistrate of Meerut, who held an enquiry into the Ghaziabad collision case, that in cases of this kind the enquiry should be entrusted not to the Railway authorities, but to independent bodies like the Board of Trade in England, and says that the opinion should commend itself to the notice of the authorities.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

34. The *Tamalika* (Tamluk) of the 5th September, in drawing attention to the agricultural distress prevailing in the villages of Sitalpur, Fatikpur, Sandalpur, Mahamedpur, Sridharpur, Dwariapur, Paramhansapur, Haripur, Kumarara, Karak, Chak Sitalpur and others, all lying within the jurisdiction of Mahisadal Thana, in Tamluk subdivision, says that the inhabitants of these villages depend solely on agriculture. There being no sufficient drainage, the crops suffer every year from excess of water. All these villages are drained by a big *khal* named Jagannath *Khol*. There is a sluice with four gates on the embankment of the Huldi river. When that sluice was constructed, it was found that the floor of it was not submerged even when the water in the adjoining *khal* and fields stood 3 to 4 feet high. After considerable petitioning to the Public Works Department, the floor was lowered by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and since that time a small volume of water is drained through the sluice. The condition of the *khal* will be imagined when it is said that the water of a *khal* with a mouth 26 feet broad is made to pass through two gates, only 4 feet wide each. The *khal* was dredged at a cost of Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 3,500 by the Raja of Mahisadal, but is being silted through the defect noted above. There is still 4 feet of water in the field, and the courtyards of a large number of raiyats are submerged.

TAMALIKA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The gates on either side of the sluices is still two feet above water level, and the amount of water discharged by the remaining two gates is very scanty. The Public Works Department should make such arrangement as to drop the doors during the flow, and take them up at the time of the ebb. But no such arrangement has been made by the Sub-Engineer of Itamagra. The crops being damaged every year through standing water, even well-to-do cultivators are over head and ears in debt. No relief has been obtained on application to the local zamindars and the District Magistrate. The raiyats in a meeting held on the last *Janmastami* day resolved that they would send representatives to the Divisional Commissioner, the District Magistrate and the Executive Engineer of Balasore, with a prayer to construct a new *khal* or to bring the existing *khal* to a working order. They are doing all they can to keep the *khal* in working order. Will the Collector of Midnapore adopt some remedial measure after inspecting the village?

NIHAR,
Sept. 8th, 1908.

35. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 8th September, commenting on the dangers which attend a journey to the Sunderbans, gives an instance in which a country-boat laden with 40 passengers and 9 bullocks started from

Dangers of a journey to the Sunderbans.

Mansa Island (Saugor Islands) for Rasulpur. The boat sank at a little distance from the former island, and all the bullocks and four passengers lost their lives. A journey to the Sunderbans can never be safe, unless a ferry steamer is kept for the purpose. The authorities are trying to make the Sunderbans habitable for men. If a steamer service is maintained for carrying men to and back, the settlement of the tract will be greatly facilitated.

(h)—General.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

36. Referring to the resuscitation and cultivation of industries, the

Mr. Cumming's report on the industrial arts.

Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika is pleased to remark that the voluminous report of Mr. Cumming on the subject published in the

Calcutta Gazette is gratifying and full of instructive information. The report breathes sympathy throughout, and is therefore recommended for acceptance as sound advice from a true friend.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

37. With reference to the nominal punishment awarded to the white

Prayer for enhancement of the sentence on the *punkha-coolie* murderer.

Enginedriver for murdering a *punkha-coolie* at Delhi, *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September is glad to observe that the Punjab Government

have moved the Chief Court for enhancement of the sentence. It is gratifying to see that in these days, when justice is trampled under foot by the authorities, the Punjab Government are anxious to maintain the prestige of law.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September remarks *anent* the same that the eagerness of the Punjab Government to do justice is gratifying. The attitude of the Bengal Government on the other hand is not at all commendable. An instance of this is to be found in the Sonai Bazar case. Has the Lieutenant-Governor also asked for any explanation from the police with regard to the Kustea shooting case in which they were guilty of gross irregularities?

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The above application of the Punjab Government is characterised by the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th September as altogether a novel feature in the country.

SAMAY,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

38. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 4th September commends the petition

The case of Durga Charan Sanyal.

for a reprieve, which is being got up on behalf of Durga Charan Sanyal, to the favourable notice of the Lieutenant-Governor.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September expresses a similar wish.

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of 5th September also makes a similar recommendation.

The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th September also asks for a similar favour for the old man. HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 7th, 1908.

39. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th September says that the respectable inhabitants of Bombay are going to submit a petition to His Excellency the Viceroy for the release of Mr. Tilak, and the people wish that His Excellency would be so kind as to pay due consideration to the matter. HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 7th, 1908.

40. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 4th September points out how the punishments meted out to offenders in seditious cases have been steadily increasing in severity and number in the course of the last twelve months, though strong writing and speaking have not certainly increased in intensity during that period. The acme of severity does not yet seem to have been reached, though lately a boy of eight years got fined for having printed a leaflet without putting the name of the press on it; and though Mr. Justice Pinhey has lately held it to be seditious to say anything against a particular nation—a wholly new interpretation which is probably arrived at on the theory that all Englishmen are kinsfolk of the King. Yet another manifestation of the same tendency is to be found in the growing practice of Judges to set aside the opinions of jurors and assessors in cases of offences under the Explosives Act, and in those of sedition and rioting. All this is evidence of a growing administrative crisis, and it behoves Government to reflect that the crisis will be aggravated by a persistence in its present policy. SAMAY,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

41. The *Anusilan* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes that Mr. Adamson's proposals for reform with regard to the separation of the Judicial and Executive functions will improve the administration. The proposals, if practically adopted, will somewhat clear the path of justice by freeing subordinate officers from the influence of the District Magistrate, who not on a few occasions intimate to them their desire that punishment should be inflicted in cases sent up by the police. But as Mr. Adamson proposes to vest District Officers with powers mentioned in Chapters 8 to 12 of the Criminal Procedure Code, they will still be able to create difficulties by binding down any person, arresting any innocent man on the plea of sedition and sending him to gaol under sentences of hard labour for two years. So these powers should not be kept in the hands of the District Officers. ANUSILAN,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

Another proposal is that the senior Magistrates should be placed under the control of the Divisional Commissioners. As the latter are not unconnected with the police, it can be said that by this arrangement the Judicial and Executive functions will remain combined in the same hands. Full power as regards the promotions and transfers of officers ought to be left with the High Court, and not with the Commissioner.

However, as the proposals on the whole tend to improve the administration, the Home Member has earned the good opinion of all.

42. After giving an account of the official scheme of the separation of the Executive and Judicial functions, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September makes the following observations:— HITAVADI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

In the first place, the proposed scheme will involve large expenditure. We would not have objected to the expenditure, if the scheme had been an innocuous one, or if it had been the only possible plan. The officers of both the Executive and Judicial lines have been placed under the Divisional Commissioner, who will not be bound to abide by the recommendations of the High Court. All the evils of the present system will be in operation as ever. What, then, is the advantage of this so-called separation of the two functions? Those who would say that a high official in the position of the Divisional Commissioner ought not to be suspected of being on the

side of injustice, would do well to call to mind the case of Mr. (now Sir James) Bourdillon, the then Commissioner of the Patna Division, who actually wrote a letter of recommendation to Mr. Pennel, District Judge, to save the prestige of a Police officer, as also the treatment which Mr. Pennel received for refusing to act up to that recommendation. Again, both the Executive and Judicial officers will be recruited from the Civil Service, and both these classes of officers will first work together at one and the same place, perhaps in the same building. Such a life must generate no small amount of intimacy between them. Those who know what mischief has frequently been done by those "My dears," will readily acknowledge that the proposed scheme will not be altogether free from it. It will thus appear that "pressure from above" will operate as it has done heretofore, and that the independence of Judicial officers will be nowhere.

In the second place, the power which is proposed to be given to Executive officers to act under the sections contained in Chapters VIII to XII of the Criminal Procedure Code, will do incalculable mischief. In fact all the powers by virtue of which the Magistrate and the police can now oppress the people in any way they like, will remain intact. Where, then, is the necessity of enacting this farce of a separation of Executive and Judicial functions?

We think the best course would be to reserve the Executive service for the civilians alone, and to appoint only Barristers and Vakils as Judicial officers. Or a separate examination like the Civil Service Examination may be held to select officers for the Judicial Service. If the two classes of officers are recruited from two different sources, and if the Judicial officers are placed under the High Court, the best results may be expected. If, on the contrary, Government think it desirable to appoint Judicial officers from the Civilians, they should not be permitted to exercise the powers mentioned in Chapters VIII to XII of the Criminal Procedure Code. Otherwise, the proposed separation will do no good whatever. Continuing, the paper writes:—

The *Pioneer* says that if the Government scheme for the separation of Judicial and Executive functions be given effect to, it will mean the undue curtailment of the powers of the District Magistrate, leading to great oppression of the people by influential pleaders, mukhtears and zamindars, and that it will prevent the Magistrates from personally acquainting themselves with the condition of the people by touring out in the mufassal. No one will be deceived by this ridiculous affectation of sympathy for the people. Whenever any proposal for reform in the administration is made, the *Pioneer* and other Anglo-Indian papers come forward as friends of the poor people and oppose it. These people imagine that the people would have been extinct by this time, if they had not been here to protect them.

HASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

43. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September strongly condemns the recent article in the *Pioneer* against the proposed experimental separation of the Judicial and Executive functions in the two Bengals as inspired by the alarm of the officials at the prospect of

losing their present unlimited power, a power which is often abused, and which is not enjoyed by officials in any other civilised country. After pointing out that Sir Harvey Adamson's ignorance of Bengal conditions, referred to in the *Pioneer*, is not greater than that of the *Pioneer* itself, the paper proceeds to pit the names of Hobhouse, Couch, Garth, Markby, Phear, Scott and Wedderburn in favour of the proposed separation, against that of Sir Fitzjames Stephen brought forward by the *Pioneer* in support of the existing arrangements. The paper concludes by characterising the *Pioneer's* references to the tyranny of the zamindar and the lawyer over the ignorant raiyat in Bengal as shameless and unjustifiable assertions, seeing that it had not a word to say in favour of the latter when he dies of scarcity of food and water, of plague and cholera and when he is harassed in a variety of ways in connection with the imposition and collection of the road-cess and the chaukidari-tax.

44. Referring to the suggestions made by the Calcutta British Indian Association regarding the scheme for the separation of Judicial and Executive functions in its letter to Government, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September says, that the suggestions are so just that Government should not hesitate to give effect to them.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

45. Referring to the case of Sheoraj Singh, a retired Government Tahsildar in the Central Provinces, who has been deprived of his pension for joining a political meeting, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes:—

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

We never knew that a Government pensioner was debarred from taking part in political meetings. In the order stopping his pension nothing is mentioned as to the nature of his guilt. We have seen that retired Civilians freely take part in political agitation, for which they are not found fault with, nor are their pensions stopped. We do not see how what is no offence for retired Civilians, is an offence for humble officers like the Tahsildar.

The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 5th September considers the order of the Central Provinces Government in the above case highly unjustifiable. Why was not the Tahsildar prosecuted, if he had committed any illegal act? Are all political agitations seditious? If such is to be the rule, will any self-respecting person accept service under Government?

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

46. Under the marginally-noted heading the *Bihar Bandhu* [Bankipur] of the 5th September has the following:—

BIHAR BANDHU,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The unrest and how to remove it. From the speeches delivered in the United Provinces, Bengal, Bombay, etc., by their respective Governors it would appear that in their opinion there are a number of men who are trying to spread sedition in the country to remove which Government has adopted the present repressive policy. But, why? some lip-loyalists have also recommended the same policy. Hence there have been so many sedition cases all over the country. But in reality there is no sedition at all though there is unrest. The question is how to remove that unrest. The Indians are a peace-loving people from their infancy. It is not therefore proper to make them solely responsible for this unrest. Looking with an unprejudiced eye it would appear that it is owing to the diplomacy of Government that we find this fire of unrest. The officials therefore, if they are really anxious to restore peace in the country, should adopt a milder policy. The condition of the Indians is likened to a hungry man who cannot be satisfied with blows which are sure to make him desperate. The Anglo-Indians are the main cause of the unrest in India. They have been sowing its seed for a long time, as would appear from what Sir Henry Cotton says in his *New India*.

Here follows a quotation from that book.

"No special remedy is required to remove the present unrest. What is wanted is a little liberality of the mind in the rulers." This is a view held by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, our future King, as would appear from what His Royal Highness said on an occasion after his return to his country."

Here follows a quotation.

"The Indians never thought of sedition even in the times of such rulers as Aurangzeb, Muhammad Toghlaq and Allauddin Khilji, how could they think of rising against the present Government? The fact is, the present unrest is for justice, not favour, as we want fair field and no favour. Be just and the unrest would disappear in no time."

47. Referring to the speeches delivered by Sir Charles Bayley in his tours through Eastern Bengal and Assam, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September says, that if His Honour's sympathetic words had been translated into action, it would have been a very fortunate thing indeed. But the oppression by the punitive police, the persecution of patriotic gentlemen, the Gurkha oppression,

HITAVADI,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

Sir Charles Bayley's speeches.

severe punishments, etc., are in full operation now as before. What a pity that mere hollow words are expected to evoke enthusiasm!

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

48. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September finds nothing to be pleased at in the report that Sir Lancelot Hare will return to India in October next, holding that Sir Charles Bayley's policy of a mixture of conciliation with repression does not seem to be a bad one, at least for the present.

SONAR BHARAT,
Sept. 5th, 1909.

49. The *Sonar Bharat* [Howrah] of the 5th September is of opinion that the *swadeshi* agitation has brought in its train mismanagement of the Postal Departments, both of East and West Bengal, and to emphasise its point has given some specific instances. There are irregularities in all the departments of the Post-office, the parcel and V. P. department not excepted; non-receipt of letters is the usual complaint of the day. The conductors of this paper sent a money-order from Howrah to Calcutta some time ago, and it was after a full month that they got receipt for the same. A few months ago they sent a copy of a book V. P. parcel to the address of a gentleman in the Goalpara district, but neither the book nor its value is forthcoming. It is oftener than usual that unregistered packets and newspapers are lost in transit, so much so that a man has to be written to twice instead of once. One cannot be sure of the safe delivery of the letters one posts. Complaints addressed to the Postal authorities result in nothing. The Post-master-General, Bengal, writes to the complainant: "Enquires will be made immediately," but there the matter ends, while the Post-master, General Eastern Bengal and Assam, never condescends to acknowledge letters of complaint. It was so far back as 17th July last that the conductors of this paper sent a registered parcel to the address of Gour Govinda Purkait, village Kesavpur, district Sylhet, but up till now nothing is known of the parcel or where it lies. The conductors of the paper have addressed a complaint in the matter to the Post-masters-General of East and West Bengal, Superintendent of Post-offices, Sylhet Division, and the Post-masters of Howrah and Jagannathpur, but to no purpose.

A Postal complaint.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

A South African representative in India.

50. In reporting how a representative of the coal trade from Johannesburg, who has come to India to find a market for South African bunker coal here, is being afforded every facility in his Mission by the Government of India, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September remarks, that considering the treatment meted out to Indians in South Africa, one can only call the attitude of the Government of India in the present case a practical illustration of the Christian precept: "If any man smite thee on thy right cheek, turn him thy left." One cannot therefore make any protest, and thereby interfere with the observance of a religious duty.

III.—LEGISLATION.

HITVADI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

51. Referring to the passing of the newly amended Local Self-Government Act, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes:—

The new Local Self-Government Act.

The provision requiring the proceeds of the road-cess to be spent exclusively on the improvement of mufussal roads is indeed deserving of all praise. But the power given to the Union Committees to impose a small tax on the villagers for sanitary improvement, though no doubt a real step towards self-government, does not promise much improvement in the sanitary condition of the people, who are extremely poor and can hardly afford to pay adequately for sanitary improvements. It is to be regretted that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has done nothing more in this direction beyond giving this power of taxation. We do not see why His Honour should be so loudly praised for this. It would have been better if legislation in this direction had been deferred till a future time. His Honour was anxious for cheap popularity, and we are unable to sing his praise.

52. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 4th September, in pointing out how the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Amendment Bill is intended to prevent Mundas and other aboriginal races in Ranchi from parting with their landed possessions in satisfaction of debt contracted from mahajans from Bihar and the United Provinces, remarks that the Christian *Padres* have been shrewd enough to get a provision inserted in the law permitting the alienation of lands for the construction of chapels, schools and residences for the clergy. And these aboriginal people are so addicted to drink and so improvident, that if they cannot mortgage their lands to Hindusthani mahajans, they will try to get loans from the Missionaries by making over their lands as gifts to them for educational and religious purposes. Thus their conversion to Christianity will be directly encouraged, and this is what the new legislation really aims at.

SAMAY,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

53. In connection with the election of a representative of the non-official members of the Bengal Legislative Council to the Viceregal Council, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th September observes:—Whoever may be the winner in the fight for votes, we are in favour of Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose. The Maharaja has long exercised his intellect in the political discussion in the Viceregal Council. He might well take rest now.

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 7th, 1908.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

54. A correspondent gives harrowing details of the distress in Khanakul-Krishnagore, and a large number of neighbouring villages in the columns of the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September. He had been to the locality as a representative of a local society, and visited an area of 12 miles in length and eight miles in breadth, and everywhere his eyes met with harrowing pictures of dire distress.

SANDHYA,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 4th September also publishes numerous specific cases of men who are suffering from starvation and disease in the villages of Mandanpur, Rajhati, Jadur, Senhat, Kumarhat, etc., in the neighbourhood of Khanakul-Krishnagore.

SAMAY,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

55. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September, reports that severe distress prevails in the Gaibandha subdivision, in the district of Rangpur. The price of rice has risen abnormally high. Mr. P. Sen, the Sub-divisional Officer, is feeding many Hindus and Mussalmans at his own expense. Relief-work on a large scale should be opened very soon.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

56. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September expresses its surprise at the demonstration held in honour of Mr. Hughes Buller, District Magistrate of Barisal, who is under order of transfer. Instead of thanking Government for transferring him, some people of Barisal have shown their gratitude to Mr. Buller by giving a steamer party and by illuminations, decorations, songs, etc. Everything is possible in this country.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

57. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September gives an account of the demonstration in Calcutta held by the Muhammadans on the occasion of the Hedjaz Railway and the Sultan's birth-day, in the course of which the writer mentions that a Muhammadan when questioned by a Hindusthani said: "The Sultan is our Badsha." "But the English are your Badsha," said the Hindusthani. The Muhammadan stuck to his reply, and took great

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

pains to prove the authority of the Sultan, and added, "The Amir came to Calcutta lately, and the English were compelled to do all that he commanded them to do."

MATRIBHUMI.
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

58. The *Matribhumi* [Chandernagore] of the 3rd September publishes in English for the benefit of "Indians" the article by Mr. Hyndman under the heading "*Bande Mataram*", appearing in the *Justice* of the 18th July last.

Mr. Hyndman on *Bande Mataram*.

SANJIVANI.
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

59. The 1st of November, writes the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September, is an ever-memorable day in the History of India. On that day the great Proclamation of Queen Victoria was published, which granted equal rights to Indians with Englishmen. The approaching 1st day of November will be the fiftieth anniversary day of the Proclamation. It is to be hoped that preparations on a large scale will be made to make known to King Edward, who is a worthy son of a worthy mother, that His Majesty's servants have not carried out the commands of his mother.

HITVARTA.
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

60. Referring to an article in *Capital* contributed by Mr. Max in which he states that British commerce has considerably fallen and warehouses in Indian ports are all fully stocked with goods without any demand for them, the *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September says:—

What do my Anglo-Indian contemporaries say? My statement in this connection may not be true, but the above is a European's testimony; but say what the Anglo-Indians may, we would only ask our countrymen to pursue the policy of the "boycott" with a little more zeal.

DAILY HITAVADI.
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

61. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th September has learnt on enquiry, and asserts with confidence, that there is a great depression in the sale of Manchester piece-goods. The dealers in English cloth are suffering heavy losses. The Marwaris of Calcutta and Bombay have decided not to import Manchester cloth again in six months or so.

From the scantiness of the sale of English cloth, it is evident that if the Bengalis exert themselves a little more in observing their *swadeshi* vow, foreign cloth will be altogether driven out of the market. And neither the English nor the Anglo-Indian traders will be able to suppress the *swadeshi* agitation by their vain words. They feel in their heart of hearts that foreign merchandise will soon be extinct.

Every lover of the country is requested to see that not a single piece of English cloth is sold during the coming *Puja*. Brahmins as leaders of society can easily stop the villagers from buying foreign things by awarding social punishments.

SANDHYA.
Sept. 3rd, 1908.

62. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September, in noticing the murder of Norendra Nath Goswami, the approver in the Alipore bomb case, asks who is responsible for the murder? Surely the murder of the man who turned King's evidence, and who was assured of protection by the authorities, covers the Government with shame. The approver's murder will come as a shock to men of his type, and make them lose faith in the assurances by Government. It was given out in the papers that Gossain "broke his parole" and courted his own fate, and that the Government was not responsible for his murder. The writer cannot say whether the Government has actually put forward this plea; but supposing it has, the plea must be regarded as a make-believe intended for the heirs of the murdered man. The writer will wait and see what Sir Andrew Fraser does in the matter.

BHARAT MITRA.
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th September has the following anent the same:—

Regarding the question as to how the two prisoners came by the pistols, various surmises have been made, but the most wicked, mischievous and absurd was that made by the *Empire* which suggested that the ladies who went to see

the prisoners on the previous day might have conveyed them. Although the suggestion has been contradicted by other papers, that journal has still the audacity to stick to its opinion instead of retracting it. If the editor of the white paper knew the pain any slander of their women caused to the Indians perhaps he would not have dared to give expression to such a base thing. It is, however, well that the opinion received no credence at the hands of the police, otherwise any act of oppression on the women would be attended with serious consequences.

One is not only astounded at the dexterity of the men who could obtain arms in the jail by throwing dust in the eyes of its innumerable guards and spies (detectives), but cannot help thinking that there is nothing which such daring cannot men do.

This *Hitvarta* [Calcutta] of the 3rd September is also reluctant to believe that the pistols have been passed on to the prisoners by the tender hearted Bengali ladies, but observes that if this really be the case matters have become very serious in this country.

The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th September also reports the event at length.

The *Darus Saltanat* [Calcutta] of the 4th September writes as follows on the subject:—

When such incidents have happened in the jail the prisoners (under-trial in the bomb-case) must be kept under a strict watch. It is right to hold that some of the bomb-makers are still at large escaping arrest, and that they are highly adept in forming mischievous conspiracies and fighting the law.

It is hoped however that Government will dispose of the bomb case very soon; and in the event of the Judge being unable to find sufficient time to deal with this lengthy case, a Special Judge will be appointed to try it. The police should exert itself in tracing out those of the bomb-conspirators who are still at large; seditious persons must all be caught hold of—This is the opinion of the patriots, especially the Muhammadans.

63. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 5th September gives the substance

The *Pioneer* on the Alipore Jail tragedy.

of the recent article in the *Pioneer*, characterising the action of the assassins in the Alipore Jail tragedy as heroic, and asks:—What would the Sarkar Bahadur have done if any Native newspaper had published such an article? It would certainly have been caught in the net of sedition. Oh, what a difference colour makes. What a wonder that even the *Pioneer*, so hostile to the native educated community, should have written in such a strain. It seems as if the ghost itself utters the sacred name of Rama. After what the *Pioneer* has written, it seems that Government will be obliged to recast the administrative system and conciliate the people; or, it may be that the *Pioneer's* writing is an indication how powerfully Government has been moved by the display of manliness in the enactment of the terrible tragedy, a display which has so much impressed the *Pioneer*.

The *Jagaran* [Bagerhat] of the 6th September is taken aback by the sentiments expressed by the *Pioneer* with regard to the murder of Narendra Nath Gossain. It is really surprising that the *Pioneer*, which never lacks in ingenuity in finding fault with the Bengalis, should go so far as to say that the murder of Gossain is a heroic deed of self-sacrifice, and that Kanai and Satyendra should not be called cowards.

The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 7th September after pointing out that the *Pioneer's* recent approval of Narendra Gossain's assassination has incidentally had the effect of bringing out the inner and genuine views of a number of Indian papers (the *Bengali*, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and the *Bande Mataram*) on the same topic, goes on to ask why the *Pioneer* should have written in this style, which is in ill-accord with its usual sentiments. There may be three answers to this question—(1) it may be taken as foreshadowing a change in the policy of Government; (2) it may be the result of genuine admiration at the burning example of unselfishness and resolution displayed by Kanai and

HITVARTTA,
Sept. 3rd, 1903.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 7th, 1903.

DARUS SALTANAT,
4th Sept. 1903.

SANDHYA,
Sep. 5th, 1903.

JAGARAN,
Sep. 6th, 1903.

SANDHYA,
Sep. 7th, 1903.

Satyendra; and (3) it may have been meant as a bait to draw the Indian papers into making a genuine expression of their views. The probabilities are in favour of the third of these explanations as the right and natural one; and if it is so, then it must be said that the Indian leading papers have been badly taken in for once—in fact their views, not only about Satyendra and Kanai, but also about Khudiram, are henceforth suspect to the English mind. The *Statesman* calls the Indian papers hypocrites for this reason, but it should remember that men under compulsion and the fear of the law say many things they do not mean. The practical question of the moment, however, is whether the *Feringhi* bull, now that it has found out the value of loyalty manifestoes and the like, will make a dead set against all and sundry indiscriminately, or getting tired of the job, will absolutely stop butting its head against anybody?

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

64. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 4th September calls for the following reforms:—

Suggestions for reforms.

(1) A reduction of rent which has proved a heavy burden; (2) fixity of rent and tenure; (3) limitation of the period and extent of enhancement of rent; (4) doing away with the disabilities of the heirs of the holders of *mourasan* lands; (5) vesting of revenue-paying lands in the Emperor; (6) restoration of the "raiyatari" rights; (7) withdrawal of the zamindar's privilege to survey lands and enhance rent; (8) divesting extortionate zamindars of their estates for management by the Government; (9) restriction of zamindar's claim for sale or re-transfer of "raiyatari" lands; (10) payment by zamindars for the improvement of "raiyatari" lands; (11) return of representatives of the agriculturists to the Legislative Councils of the Empire; (12) permission for killing cows anywhere; (13) provision to enable poor raiyats to institute cases in Court free of cost; (14) cheap rate of interest on loans; (15) facilities for reconsideration of "ex-parte" suits; (16) management of properties of poor minors; (17) safeguard against secret proceedings in cases; (18) free education of the children of the poorer classes; (19) repayment of ordinary loans in Court; (20) prizes for improvements in agricultural implements.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

65. Referring to the present situation in the country, the execution of Khudiram Bose and the conviction of Mr. Tilak, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 4th

The temper of the public.

September strongly disapproves of the conduct of the Indian newspapers published in Calcutta, the public leaders and the students. The paper is of opinion that the loyal manifestoes issued by the Bihar magnates and other parties have not received that consideration at the hands of the public which it deserved, and what is more they were rather trifled with. The paper goes on to say that to show sympathy with and regard for Khudiram Bose condemned for committing a heinous crime is neither just nor proper, and the fact that this has practically been the case is discreditable to the educated public. The journal also objects to the sale of Khudiram's photo, and the holding of meetings to express sympathy for Mr. Tilak in his conviction, and expresses surprise that on the day of Khudiram's execution the students of Colleges and Schools went barefooted, and thinks that students should devote all their attention to their studies and to nothing else.

SAMAY,
Sept. 4th, 1908.

66. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 4th September expresses satisfaction at, and wishes success to, Ajit Singh's project of establishing Tilak Asramas or seminaries which

Tilak Asramas.

will teach politics, and the arts of newspaper-writing and public speaking, and generally conduct political work in furtherance of Tilak's ideals.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Writing on the same subject, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September expresses the opinion that the establishment of these Asramas will supply a genuine and serious want in the country.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

67. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September, in attributing to

Professor James and self-government in India.

Mr. H. R. James of the Presidency College a remark to the effect that India will not attain self-government before 500 years from now, remarks:—

This is saying in other words that the teaching which Mr. James imparts to his students now will not bear fruit till 5 centuries later. And evidently

Mr. James wishes his students to sit quite inactive all this long period, expecting self-government to come of itself at its appointed time.

The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th September, commenting on the above prediction by Mr. James, exclaims:—What a prodigious foresight this!

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

68. Referring to the loyalty manifesto issued by Babu Haridas Haldar, a Sebait of the Kalighat Temple, the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 5th September writes:—

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

The Kalighat loyalty manifesto.

The Sebait might very properly issue such a manifesto, but the conduct of Haridas Haldar has greatly surprised us. Was not this Haridas one of the leaders of the Extremist party? Is he not the same man whose house was lately searched by the police in connection with the bomb outrage; who denounced all *belati* articles at the 24-Parganas District Conference last year; who attempted to bring about a quarrel at the Provincial Conference held at Pabna, on the plea that the principle of boycott was ignored there; who, with his Extremist friends, boycotted the last Industrial Conference at Calcutta, on the ground that *belati* corrugated iron sheets were used in the construction of the sheds; and who called political meetings at the Temple of Kali to which Brahma Bandhav Upadhyay, B. C. Pal and others were cordially invited? It is these insincere hypocrites who are the pests of the *swadeshi* movement.

69. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September belittles the recent demonstration in honour of Rai Narendra Nath Sen Bahadur at the Khelat Chandra Institution at Calcutta as one in which the worshippers as

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Rai Narendra Nath Sen Bahadur.

well as the offerings of worship were all of a piece with the object of worship and then goes to report that the terrible tone of the Rai Bahadur's recent writings in the *Indian Mirror* has led to his removal from the office of President of the Indian Association, a well-merited slight which is a set-off to the honour he has lately earned from Government.

70. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 5th September gives the substance of a letter published in the *Arya Gazette* of Lahore, narrating the writer's personal experience of the inhuman oppression to which Indian coolies in Mauritius are subjected.

BASUMATI,
Sept. 5th, 1908.

Indian coolie life in Mauritius.

71. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th September has the following comments on Lord Northcote's speech on the internal defence of Australia:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 6th, 1908.

Different defensive policies in different countries ruled by the same Government.

Lord Northcote said, that with a view to save Australia from outside invasion, it was necessary to increase the population and the number of trained soldiers. It is curious to notice that different policies are followed in different countries, though they are ruled by the same Sovereign. Here the Government of India are not only indifferent to the military training of the natives, but avowedly inimical to it. They are only anxious to increase the military expenditure and multiply soldiers. Here the natives are disbelieved, and if they handle a gun, a sword or any other weapon, are sent to gaol.

72. Referring to the arrest of the Raja of Narajole, Midnapore, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 7th September expresses itself very strongly on the present conduct of Maharajas, Rajas and other titled men of the country. The paper is at its wits' end to find out

DAILY HITAVADI,
Sept. 7th, 1908.

Indifference of land-holders to the arrest of the Raja of Narajole.

the reason why these men are altogether silent, when one in the position of the Raja of Narajole has been a victim of police machinations and magisterial whims, and made to submit to all sorts of harassment and indignities. Are the titled men, asks the paper, incapable of realising their sense of responsibility when respectable persons are made victims of police machinations and unjustly harassed, or do they think that their only duty is to proclaim their loyalty?

73. Referring to the letter of Sir Earnest Cable to the *Times of India* proposing the appointment of a Committee to consider and report on the matter noted in the

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 7th, 1908.

The hoarded wealth of India.

margin, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th September asks, if Mr. Cable has any reply to the "question": In a country annually visited by

famine how many men can accumulate capital sufficient to start any large business?"

NIHAR,
Sept. 8th, 1909.

74. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 8th September relates how men, women and children in Barisal are filled with an earnest desire to improve the condition of the country.

Patriotic women at Barisal. A meeting was lately held at Barisal at the instance of the zamindars, Babus Hiran Kumar Sen Chowdhuri and Kiran Kumar Sen Chowdhuri, in which 400 men and 200 women and girls were present. Babu Satis Chandra Chatterjee, Professor, Brajomohan College, delivered a stirring speech, and he was followed by Babu Surenda Nath Sen, Superintendent, National School, Kisoreganj. The speeches, especially that of the latter gentleman, urging the establishment of a National School at Jhalakati, created so much enthusiasm that women gave away gold ornaments, the weight of which came up to 25 tolas. A meeting was next held at Jhalakati to establish a National school there. Srimati Birajmohini Dasi, came forward with a denation of Rs. 101 and others also have contributed substantially to the fund. Even coolies did not fail to contribute their mite.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

75. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that the Mahanta of Katarpa Math, in thana Salepur, district Cuttack, has earned the gratitude of the people by lending them about two thousand *bharans* of paddy, and has thereby preserved the prestige of the Mahantas as a holy body.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

76. The Gopalpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that famine is so severe in that part of the Cuttack district that people have been compelled to live upon the fruits of the *jamu* tree.

Rice sells there at 6 seers per rupee.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

77. The Kendrapara correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that about 5,000 Brahmins were fed at the *sraddha* ceremony of the deceased wife of the late Babu Jagannath Bhramarbar Rai. Also 700 poor non-Brahmins were supplied with flattened rice and fried rice mixed with sugar and *pias*.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

78. The same correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that those people who had large quantities of paddy in stock, are being induced by fair prospects of the standing crops to sell off a portion of the same. Thus large quantities of paddy and rice are found in the local markets, while their prices are a little lower.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

79. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that five deaths from cholera occurred in the Cuttack town last week.

Cholera in Cuttack.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

80. The Gopalpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that cholera prevails in that village and its surrounding villages in the Cuttack district.

Cholera in Gopalpur, in Cuttack.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

81. The Gopalpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August states that it was raining every day in that part of the Cuttack district, the transplantation of the paddy plants being over.

The weather and crop in Cuttack.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

82. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August advises the District Boards of Orissa to elect Mr. M. S. Das, C.I.E., as their representative to represent their interests in the Bengal Legislative Council.

The District Boards of Orissa advised.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

83. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August draws the attention of the Cuttack District Board to the necessity of constructing a bridge on the Solah river that crosses the fair-weather road, passing from Fulnakhra to Kajipatna, in the Cuttack district, and advises the residents of that part of the

The necessity of a bridge on the River Solah, in the Cuttack district.

district to apply to the District Board again and again. It is suggested that the District Board will not find much difficulty in complying with the wishes of the residents, as a bridge on that river has been left half-finished by the Chaudhuris of Bhingarpur, whose estate has passed into the hands of the Civil Court. The District Board may complete that bridge at its own cost.

84. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August thanks the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for granting a scholarship to Mr. R. T. Rout, a resident of Cuttack, with a view to enable him to proceed to England to learn tannery in some industrial centre in that country. Mr. Rout is also to be congratulated as being the first Uriya to have received such a scholarship.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 1st, 1908.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal thanked.

85. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August regrets that a competent gentleman like Mr. Tilak should have been brought to grief by indiscreet writings that might have been easily avoided. Still as two of the jurors gave verdicts in his favour, a lighter punishment should have been inflicted on him. Besides a light punishment on a gentleman of his position is too much in the eyes of the public.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 1st, 1908.

A lighter punishment advocated for Mr. Tilak.

86. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August gives an account of the interview which Babus Baikanthanath Dutt, Brajasundar Das and Ramsankar Rai had with Mr. Kuchler, the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, who was in Cuttack last month on the subject of education in the Ravenshaw College, and hopes that the Director will take early steps to provide necessary establishment to teach History in the College classes and to facilitate the study of Science in a more effective manner. It is further hoped that the Law classes will be reopened in that College next year. The promise of the Director to provide scholarships for those passed students of the College, who want to study the M. A. course at Calcutta, is taken in good part, while the students of the Ravenshaw College are exhorted to attend to their studies carefully and attentively, so that the results of the future B. A. Examinations might be more satisfactory, thereby leading to the entertainment of an M. A. class in that College.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 1st, 1908.

An interview granted to local gentlemen by Mr. Kuchler at Cuttack.

87. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August gives an account of the inspection of the Ravenshaw Girls' School and Mrs. Rai's School by the Director of Public Instruction, and observes that the Director has decided fairly by continuing its grant to the former school, which is the older institution, and which has considerably improved under the management of Miss Das, who acts as its present Secretary. Both the Director and the Commissioner have advised Mrs. Rai to amalgamate her school with the Ravenshaw Girls' School, as thereby work will go on smoother and the amalgamated institution may expect a consolidated grant from Government. The Inspector of Schools has also been advised to see that the authorities connected with both the institutions do act in concert with a view to their ultimate amalgamation at no distant date. The *Star of Utkal*, an English weekly published at Cuttack, is strongly criticised for its attempt to create ill-feeling in the minds of ladies and gentlemen connected with both the institutions.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 1st, 1908.

Inspection of two girls' schools in Cuttack by the Director of Public Instruction.

88. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August gives an account of the proceedings of a meeting, held at Bhingarpur, in the Puri district, under the presidency of Choudhuri Ramhari Das, with the object of protesting against the enactment of the Land Records' Maintenance Bill. The meeting was attended by 300 landlords and tenants, in spite of bad weather. It was unanimously resolved that the Bill, if passed into law, will bring in its train all the evils of an annual settlement. This is very unfair, as the term of the 30 years' settlement has not as yet expired.

UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 1st, 1908.

A protest against the enactment of the Land Records Maintenance Bill.

89. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August gives an account of a monster meeting held in the Cuttack Town Hall, to protest against the abolition of Law classes from the Ravenshaw College. More than a thousand persons were present on the

UTKALDIPIKA.
Aug. 1st, 1908.

A monster meeting in Cuttack.

spot. Mr. M. S. Das, C.I.E., made it clear to the meeting that Orissa was a backward Province, and as such needed greater care from the Government. Without Government help, the Uriyas can never expect to prosper or thrive. Government must not demur to spend something on the legal education of the Uriyas. A resolution was passed to petition Government on the subject and to support the previous petitions on the same subject.

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 1st, 1908.

90. Referring to the troubles of the Indians in the Transvaal, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 1st August points out that the Indians should be more careful in the future to mind their own industries, and thereby make a provision for themselves without feeling any necessity to migrate to other countries.

A piece of advice to the Indians about their future conduct.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

The Puri Collector, a noble-hearted gentleman.

91. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August states that the present Collector of Puri personally nursed a cholera patient, though he failed to save his life. After his death, he made suitable arrangements for the funeral ceremonies of the deceased. This shows that the Collector of Puri is really a noble-hearted gentleman.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

92. Referring to the different sorts of provision made for the maintenance of widows in the Mysore State, the *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August observes that this noble example of the Mysore Government should be followed by other Native Governments in India with profit.

93. The *Uriya and Narsamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August states that the famine in some parts of the Puri district continues as before, that the Ram Krishna Mission is steadily and satisfactorily doing its duties in connection with famine relief at Parikud, and that the Government has contributed Rs. 500 towards the Mission Fund, and has promised an additional sum of Rs. 500.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

The liberality of the Raja of Khariel.

94. The *Uriya and Narsamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August thanks the Raja of Khariel for his liberality in granting two scholarships to two boys for prosecuting their Sanskrit studies at the City of Benares.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

A woman killed by some invisible hand.

95. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August quotes the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to say that on the night of the 19th June an Uriya woman, while returning home at Charimala, near Puri, suddenly screamed out near the Muhammadan burial-ground named "Ghoraduar," and told her son, who was accompanying her, that she felt as if some one struck her. She then rolled down senseless on the road and expired soon after she was brought to her home.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

A murder in a railway carriage.

96. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August states that on the 14th June last a murder was committed in a 3rd class carriage, at a place very near the Jajpur Railway Station. The offender has been arrested and brought to justice.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

A meeting in Cuttack to protest against the abolition of the Law classes from the Ravenshaw College.

97. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August states that on the 28th of July last a meeting was held at Cuttack to ascertain public opinion regarding the abolition of Law classes from the Ravenshaw College. All the gentlemen present could not be accommodated in the Cuttack Town Hall. Consequently the meeting was held in the adjoining open ground. It was unanimously resolved to petition the Bengal Government to reopen the Law classes under the new scheme. Bankers and merchants took a prominent part in the proceedings.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

The installation of Narsinghpur and Baramba on their respective ancestral gaddis.

98. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August states that it is a matter for congratulation to learn that the Political Agent, Feudatory States, Orissa, has been pleased to instal the Rajas of Narsinghpur and Baramba on their respective ancestral gaddis. Both the installations were celebrated in a pompous manner.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

The demise of Pandit Markandeya Tarkapanchanan, mourned.

99. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August mourns the death of Pandit Markandeya Tarkapanchanan, who was a distinguished Sanskrit scholar and poet in the Ganjam district.

100. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 5th August gives an account of the proceedings of meetings held in

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 5th, 1908.

Prize distribution meetings at Balasore.

students of the Balasore Mission High School and the Balasore Town Girls' School. The Commissioner was pleased to remark that the Industrial school in connection with the American Baptist Mission in Balasore was doing useful work. He also acknowledged the services of Raja Baikuntha Nath De Bahadur and other public-spirited gentlemen of the station in the cause of female education in Balasore.

101. Referring to the statements of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the Bengal Council that His Honour's regard for the people of India as a whole has not been seriously affected by the turn which events have of late taken in Bengal, that His Honour does not attribute these

SAMVAD, VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's statements in the Bengal Legislative Council, criticised.

events to the people in general, and that His Honour declines to condemn the whole population for the offences of a few, the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August observe that if His Honour thinks in the above way, it is His Honour's duty to save innocent people from unnecessary harassment by the police, who are armed with irresistible powers. Searches made in the houses of several gentlemen in Midnapore, in the *Medini Bandhab* office, in the *Sanjivani* office, and in the house of Mr. Subodh Chandra Mullick, and the arrest and detention in *hajut* of Pandit Panchanan Tarkaratna and six other innocent gentlemen are cited as instances of such harassment. The police must not be carried away by unreasonable suspicions.

102. The Basudevpur correspondent of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August states that the Settlement Officer placed in charge of the revision settlement operations in that Thana in the Balasore district, has given satisfaction to the tenants by adopting impartial proceedings under section 103 of the Bengal Tenancy Act.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

The Settlement Officer of Basudevpur in Balasore, an impartial officer.

103. The Basudevpur correspondent of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August states that a *dhobi* woman was drowned in a tank in village Denli, in that Thana, whither she had gone to bring water.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

104. The same correspondent of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August states that the maid-servant of the Chakla Kanungo in the Basudevpur thana died of snake-bite.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

A case of snake-bite.

105. The same correspondent of the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August states that several Musalman belonging to villages Sabaipur, Sukdeipur and Sungura, in the Basudevpur Thana of the Balasore district, are

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

Cases of cattle-stealing in Basudevpur, in Balasore.

in the habit of stealing cows from the cow-sheds of neighbouring villages, and that 10 of the culprits are under trial.

106. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August states that good showers of rain are falling in Balasore, and that the agriculturists are busy in transplantation work.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

The weather and crops in Balasore.

107. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August states that a monster meeting of zamindars, muquaddams and lakhiraj-dars was held at Bhingarpur, in Puri, under the presidency of Chaudhuri Ramhari Das, with the object of protesting against the enactment of the Land Records' Maintenance Bill.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

A protest meeting in Bhingarpur, in Puri.

108. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August advises the District Boards of Orissa to elect a member for the Bengal Legislative Council, who is well versed in zamindari affairs, and who is fully acquainted with the relation between zamindars and raiyats, and who can speak with authority in matters relating to the landed interests in that Province.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

Necessary qualifications of a member to be elected for the Bengal Legislative Council.

109. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August gives an account of the proceedings of a meeting held in the Christian High School, Balasore, under the presidency of Mr. Levinge, Commissioner of the Orissa Division,

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

Distribution of prizes to the deserving pupils of the Christian High School, Balasore.

with the object of distributing prizes to the deserving pupils of that institution. After the distribution of prizes was over, the Commissioner made a short speech, reviewing the annual report of the school, and promising to take personal interest in the school and the technical school attached thereto, as long as he remains in the Orissa Division.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 6th, 1908.

110. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 6th August gives statistics to show that railway accidents have of late become frequent, and that steps should be taken to minimise such accidents in future. It is said that the rate of mortality due to accidents has increased five times in the case of the third class passengers.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th 1908.

111. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August complains that Postal daks reach Talcher about 12 hours later than the appointed hour, and that the delay is attributable to floods and foul weather. The writer suggests that arrangements should be made to minimise the inconveniences due to such delay.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th 1908.

112. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August writes a long article on the necessity of founding a higher English school at Angul which is fast rising to the important position of a district head-quarters in the Orissa Garjats. The people of Angul made several petitions on the subject, but they were all unsuccessful. The Educational authorities do not seem to pay much attention to the matter. The Inspector of Schools is requested to consider the prayer of the Angul people carefully, and to bring the same to the notice of the higher authorities with a view to raise the status of the existing school to that of a higher English school.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

113. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that Babu Baidya Nath Misra, Deputy Magistrate, Angul, is a fair-minded officer, and is disposing of cases in a way which satisfies the Angul people. Thus he has become popular, and the people want to retain his services in Angul for a longer period.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

Many in Talcher living upon fruit diets.

114. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that many people in Talcher are feeding upon ripe palms, melons, cucumber,

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

jahnis, maize and other fruits.

115. The Bhingarpar correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that Samantas Kulamani Chaudhuri, Bijoyram Chaudhuri and Narahari Chaudhuri, zamindars of Bhingarpar, in the Puri district, are every day feeding poor people with boiled rice.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

116. The same correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th instant states that *sesamum* oil sells at 10 annas, mustard oil at 11 annas 6 pies, *punang* oil at 4 annas, cocoanut oil at 10 annas, kerosine oil at 10 pice, *ghes* at Rs. 1-8, and *chirchana* oil at 10 annas per seer at Bhingarpar, in the Puri district.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

117. The Bhingarpar correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that a famished woman died of starvation while walking on a road in that part of the Puri district.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

118. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that cholera has reappeared in Talcher and that two persons have already died of the disease.

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

Public health in Angul.

119. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that cholera has disappeared from

GARJATBASINI,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

Angul.

120. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that cholera prevails in a terrible form in the Dhenkanal State.

Cholera in Dhenkanal.

121. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that it is raining every day in Talcher and that the transplantation of paddy plants has been over in many parts of that state.
Weather and crops in Talcher. *GARJATBASINI, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
122. The Bhingarapur correspondent of the *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that the prospects of the *nalita* or the jute crop in that part of the Puri district are not hopeful.
The prospects of jute in Puri. *GARJATBASINI, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
123. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August states that some shoemakers in Bamra and Sonepur have learnt to manufacture horse-saddles, which, though not so beautiful as Cawnpuri ones, are stronger. The writer hopes that this new industry in the Orissa Garjats will be encouraged by the use of Bamra and Sonepur saddles everywhere in Orissa.
The manufacture of saddles in Bamra and Sonepur needs encouragement. *GARJATBASINI, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
124. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 8th August regrets to notice a general feeling of uneasiness throughout India due to the acts of some revolutionists, who want to upset the present state of things. This is a matter of great regret. It is a happy sign that the Uriyas are, as a body, loyal. Their leaders should take steps to prevent the contagion of disaffection spreading in any way to Orissa.
The loyal Uriyas should be free from the contagion of disaffection spreading in different parts of India. *GARJATBASINI, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
125. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that the prospects of the standing crops in the Kendrapara Subdivision of the Cuttack district are good, and that therefore those who had stored paddy are selling it in small quantities at slightly cheaper rates.
Prospects of standing crops in Kendrapara good and their effect on paddy sale. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
126. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that the poor people in village Gopalpur and the neighbouring villages are living upon the plums of the *jamu* tree, and that rice sells there at six seers per rupee.
Distress in Gopalpur. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
127. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that the *beali* paddy plants in Lakhai, Gotupur and other villages in the Jajpur Subdivision of the Cuttack district, are being injured by insects.
Beali being injured by insects. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
128. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that three Pans died of starvation in village Risipur, in the Jajpur Subdivision of the Cuttack district.
Three deaths due to starvation in Jajpur. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
129. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that rice sells at $5\frac{3}{4}$ seers per rupee in Dhenkanal, and that the Raja of that State has made arrangements to distribute rice to the poor on Sundays.
High price of rice in Dhenkanal. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
130. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that an old woman belonging to village Maidpur, in the Jajpur Subdivision of the Cuttack district, was drowned in the Burha river while bathing therein.
An accident. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
131. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that about 20 famished men and women, while crossing the Brahmini river in a country canoe in Dhenkanal, were drowned by the canoe being capsized.
Twenty deaths in Dhenkanal due to a canoe being capsized. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
132. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that Babu Sobharam Lakshminarayan Marwari, who had recently distributed money and food-stuffs to the famished people in Jajpur with a free hand, is now helping the poor by paying fees for their impounded cattle.
Liberality of Babu Sobharam Lakshminarayan Marwari. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
133. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that an up-country man in the garb of a *sanyasi* robbed a woman belonging to village Ramkrishnapur, in the Howrah district, of her jewellery worth about Rs. 300.
A cheat. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*
134. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that a peasant belonging to village Palasibahini, in pargana Bajrakut in Talcher, killed his own brother with an axe. The case is under Police investigation.
A case of fratricide in Talcher. *UTKAL VARTA, Aug. 8th, 1908.*

UTKAL VARTA,
Aug 8th, 1908.

135. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August states that the Uriyas of Balasore, Cuttack and Puri have been impoverished by the abolition of salt manufacture from Orissa, and that their staying power has been reduced to the lowest ebb. The manufacture of salt in Orissa should be revived without any more delay.

UTKAL VARTA,
Aug. 8th, 1908.

136. The *Utkal Varta* [Calcutta] of the 8th August opposes the publication of Civil Court sale notices in the newspapers of Orissa, on the ground that the circulation of newspapers in that Province is very limited and that the costs of publication are debited to the accounts of the judgment debtors, who are mostly a set of ruined men. At least such publications should be avoided in the case of decrees valued less than rupees one hundred.

RAJENDRA CHANDRA SASTRI,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 12th September, 1908.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 12th September 1908.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1083. The *Bengalee* remarks that Sir Andrew Fraser's last Resolution on Police Administration is notable chiefly for the determined manner in which the whitewashing of

BENGALIE,
4th Sept. 1908.

Police inefficiency. the Police is done. No useful criticism is attempted, because everything is in a state of transition with the Police. Their pay has been increased and their position generally bettered. But these have had no effect either on the morals of the force or their detective ability. Extortion and torture still continue. It is no less painful to note that while the Police are being reformed, cognizable crime is increasing.

1084. The *Telegraph* considers the Resolution by the Government of Bengal on the Administration Report of the Police Department as rather disappointing. Notwithstanding the

TELEGRAPH,
5th Sept. 1908.

Police Administration. reforms and improvements effected there is no sign of improvement in either the efficiency or morality of the force. It is plain enough that out of affection and sympathy Sir Andrew Fraser has refrained from passing any severe strictures on the administration of the Police Department.

1085. Commenting on the arrest and trial of the Raja of Narajole in connection with the Midnapore bomb case, the

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Sept. 1908.

Midnapore sensations. *Amrita Bazar Patrika* observes that the principle apparently guiding the Midnapore authorities is to first punish a number of people without any inquiry or evidence against them, even though they are presumably innocent, and then to try to explain, if possible, why they were punished. Is this not a nice way of administering justice? The authorities, have doubtless, good reason to lose their temper; but that does not justify the adoption of un-English methods when it is a question of life and death, of the honour and liberty of the King Emperor's innocent subjects.

1086. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is of opinion that if the presence of the ruler of the province is needed anywhere just

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
4th Sept. 1908.

Midnapore turned upside down. now, it is at Midnapore. He is the earthly providence and protector of the people of the province. If they suffer from alleged gross wrongs at the hands of His Honour's subordinates, they have a right to expect that he will afford them shelter. In the interests also of the local authorities themselves, the Lieutenant-Governor should make a personal enquiry. For, if they have been unjustly maligned, they need protection. It is deeply regretted that Sir Andrew Fraser, instead of acceding to the reasonable prayer of the educated leaders of Midnapore for an impartial enquiry into the situation by an independent and unprejudiced officer, has left them at the mercy of the very officials who charge them with having established a secret society to bomb and murder them. The result has proved disastrous, and the people of Midnapore have been staggered by the arrest and confinement in *hajut* of a large number of highly respectable men under the new Explosives Act, or for being members of a secret society. It is impossible to describe the utter consternation and sense of insecurity prevailing owing to these sensational arrests and the monstrous treatment accorded to the parties taken into custody.

The journal also enquires whether His Honour's attention has been attracted to the fact that the accused in the Midnapore bomb case are being marched from the jail to the Magistrate's Court and made to stand in the dock handcuffed as if they were murderers or cut-throats. It trusts His Honour will be pleased to stop this cruel procedure which is both unnecessary and shocking.

1087. *Apropos* of the arrest of the Raja of Narajole, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* thinks it is time for the Maharajas of

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
5th Sept. 1908.

The Narajole Raja's arrest and incarceration.

Darbhangha and Burdwan, Maharaja Sir Prodyat Kumar, Raja Peary Mohan, and the Hon'ble Rai Kishori Lal Goswami Bahadur to come forward. They command the confidence of the Government, and it is their duty to come to the rescue of one of their brethren in trouble. The journal also suggests that His Honour or the

Hon'ble Mr. Duke should go to Midnapore for an enquiry, and that His Honour should be pleased to issue instructions to the Midnapore Magistrate to give bail to such of the accused as are not likely to run away and against whom there is no evidence.

BENGALURU,
6th Sept. 1908.

1088. The *Bengalee* once again calls attention to the grave situation at Midnapore caused by the proceedings of the Police and the apparent unwillingness of the Government

The situation at Midnapore. to interfere in any form or shape for the relief of the people. Mr. K. B. Dutt, the Chairman of the Midnapore Municipality, speaks out in no uncertain terms as to the gravity of the situation. He gives the names of persons of the highest respectability, who would speak in support of his statements, giving clear indications of the persons believed to be fabricating false evidence against innocent persons. The journal hopes that the Government will reassure the public mind by deputing a senior officer to make an enquiry. Sir Andrew Fraser is unfortunately not in the best of health; but there is no reason why Mr. Duke, the Chief Secretary, should not be deputed to hold this investigation. It would imply no want of confidence in the Police except such as they deserve. On the other hand, if the allegations are proved to be unfounded, the credit of the Police would be firmly established.

BANDE MATARAM,
7th Sept. 1908.

1089. Adverting to the arrest of the Raja of Narajole, *Bande Mataram* writes:—

A Raja's message.

"Our countrymen are now fully aware of the treatment which the Raja has met with at the hands of the responsible officers of Midnapore. On his arrival at the town he was being driven from post to pillar and pillar to post for some time, and then confined in a nasty cell of the local jail after being refused bail from all the responsible quarters. The treatment is galling enough to any ordinary man having no claim to special consideration, but it did not produce the least disquieting effect on this illustrious inmate of the Midnapore Jail, who, when interviewed by his Solicitor, requested him to inform his friends that he was content with his lot. This message from the Raja is pregnant with hope and inspiration. This service of his is beyond praise. This is a contribution to the fund of our spiritual energy far more substantial and enduring than the thousand and lakhs he may have given us before. He has enriched us far more effectively by this message of hope and faith amidst troubles and humiliations unbearable even for a common man, than he could have done by placing his whole property at our command. The knowledge that there are even among our rich people persons capable of such fortitude and resignation in the hour of the nation's trouble will considerably reinforce our strength and stamina. It is a strong evidence of the working of the Providence in our midst. It is proof positive that the Mother is with us keeping up our spirits during this terrible trial. Let us all carry on our work renovated by the Raja's message, meeting what may befall us with the soothing and sustaining words:—Yet thine and not my will be done even in this awful hour."

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd Sept. 1908.

1090. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* approves of the course suggested by the *Indian Daily News* regarding the speedy closing of the trial in the Alipore bomb case. It should not be prolonged, nor should further unrest be created simply in the hope of implicating others, and that such of the accused against whom a *prima facie* case had been made out, should be immediately committed to the Sessions and their trial finished. If this course had been adopted, fairness would have been shown to all parties. But, under the present arrangement, a number of presumably innocent men have been rotting in *hajat* or jail along with the presumably guilty.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
6th Sept. 1908.

1091. The *Hindoo Patriot* says it is well that the Madras Government has yielded to the voice of public opinion in favour of Mr. Aiyar, and seen the necessity of desisting from putting him to further trouble. The journal is glad that such a wise step has been taken and that Mr. Aiyar has been

released from custody. His past career is generally free from blemish, and the great mistake of his life was the way in which he accommodated Mr. Bepin Chandra Pal during the latter's eventful visit to Madras.

The *Indian Mirror* and *Bengalee* have nothing but congratulations and unstinted praise for the Madras Government for exercising its mercy towards Mr. Aiyar. The latter paper, however, observes that an unconditional withdrawal, supported if necessary by a warning, would have been a more dignified course for such a great Government.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

1092. According to the *Bengalee*, though the Calcutta Improvement

City improvement.

Scheme is still incubating, the Simla Improvement Scheme is making gigantic progress. Simla is for the gods, whereas Calcutta is for experiments in assessment. The Simla Improvement Scheme will be paid for by Government, but Calcutta will be bled for the purpose. The Calcutta Municipality is practically insolvent. It has committed itself to vast schemes of water-supply and drainage. Its other sanitary requirements are numerous and urgent. The Building Commission emphatically declared that the rate of assessment could be no further raised. But during the last seven years the assessment has been raised 43 per cent. without increasing the rate itself. The *fiat* is apparently to go forth that the rates must be raised; else the Corporation cannot possibly go on with the Improvement scheme. The question is, whether the city wants the Improvement scheme on these terms? If not, who wants it? If the city does not want the Improvement scheme, why should it pay for it? On the other hand, justice, equity and good conscience require that those who want the Improvement scheme, and they only, must pay for it.

BENGALÉE,
5th Sept. 1908.

(h)—*General.*

1093. The *Bengalee* observes that the recent debate in the House of Lords

The partition and autocracy.

disclosed the unpopularity of the partition of Bengal even amongst those who were associated with its inauguration. Lord Morley himself has declared that the partition went decisively against the wishes of the majority of the people concerned, and that as a scheme of administrative re-arrangement it was not the best that could have been devised. In the face of a declaration of this kind, the determination to stick to it must be regarded as the exercise of arbitrary autocratic power. The people feel that in this most vital matter which for the last three years has so stirred their hearts, their opinion counts for nothing. The Secretary of State holds out the olive branch of peace and conciliation; but how can they feel happy and contented when their most pressing grievance, which is admitted to be well-founded, remains unredressed? The prospects of success of the proposed reforms, in Bengal at least, depend upon the manner in which the partition of Bengal is dealt with. The first and foremost item in the national movement is the modification of the partition. In Bengal the proposed reforms will evoke no enthusiasm if the partition is not withdrawn or modified. The journal feels it its duty to raise this warning note.

BENGALÉE,
5th Sept. 1908.

III.—LEGISLATION.

1094. Commenting on the operation of the Explosives Act, the *Amrita*

The Explosives Act and its terrible misuse.

Bazar Patrika says that although great mischief was apprehended from the measure, it had not the slightest idea that its provisions would have been applied in the atrocious manner in which they are being now applied. It recommends two safeguards against the measure being converted into an instrument of oppression—

First, no one should be hauled up for trial who has no intention of using any explosive substance for unlawful purposes; secondly, no proceeding under this Act should be taken without the sanction of the Local Government. With

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th Sept. 1908.

regard to the Midnapore arrests, the journal hopes that Sir Andrew Fraser will interfere and see that the accused are released on bail.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

INDIAN NATION,
31st Aug. 1908.

1095. The *Indian Nation* writes:—

Moderates and anarchism.

“When a call is made upon our public men to repudiate, denounce, and put down the spirit of lawlessness, it is a mistake to imagine that what is wanted is either a mere condemnation of particular men or even of particular acts, or a declaration of faith, a profession of loyalty or a preaching of loyalty. We never thought that it was possible to misunderstand the meaning of the call, but some of our co-patriots in the press have misunderstood it or affect to misunderstand it. Not only have mistakes been committed of the kind just referred to, but it has been said by some in answer to the call that the loyalty or the lawlessness of the people depends not upon what public men may say but upon what Government will do. In other words, if the Government is not generous and progressive, the people cannot but be in a state of unrest. Does not that look like an apology for unrest? A vindication of it? And therefore an encouragement of it? And does it not look like holding out a threat to Government? “Be liberal, be conciliatory; otherwise you will yourselves be responsible for unrest.” That is what is apparently meant to be said by those who do not seem to understand the call. Anarchy will not pay, but will defeat its own object. This is the lesson which has to be taught; and therein lies the philosophy of what is called repression. Repressive measures are intended to show that the forces of disorder shall never be allowed to prevail. They will be persisted in as long as disorder lasts. To make repression cease, disorder must cease. If Government is to make concessions, it will do so on other grounds and not from a fear of lawlessness. Therefore it is useless telling Government that the temper of the people will depend upon the way it governs. . . . It may be asked that if Government is obstinately blind to our grievances and deaf to our pleadings, must we do nothing? Of course not. Something has to be done. But before we can decide what is to be done, we must know the end to be attained, and we must remember that violent methods can never be of any good. Whatever may happen, we have no resource open but constitutional agitation. Just as when a man is sick and medicine after medicine fails, still there is no way left open but medical treatment, so in political life when right after right is taken away or wrong after wrong is inflicted, there is no other remedy than constitutional agitation. *Swadeshi* and boycott may be good things in their way, but neither the one nor the other will give or restore a political privilege. Anarchism will be an unmixed evil and can only lead to the loss of more rights. The English people or the English Parliament cannot be coerced into submission. They will not be starved by our boycott; and they will be only provoked by bombs. However gloomy the situation, let us plead for our rights and let us show that we are worthy of them.”

BANDE MATARAM,
2nd Sept. 1908.

1096. With regard to the murder of Gossain in the Jail Hospital, *Bande Mataram* writes:—

An enigma.

“The murder of the approver is an inexplicable event. Sense and sight may have witnessed it, but fail to explain. They have told a wild and incredible story. None can hoot and hiss, froth and fume, because every one is dumbfounded. Two invalids are said to have committed the crime; two thin Bengali youths, one of them already a convict and pronounced to be slightly convalescent after a period of protracted illness, but still confined to bed, the other seriously ill at the time, are said to have actually fought with and disabled two strong-built European convict-warders during the course of the execution of their vengeance on their enemy. These two prisoners, both of them described by eye-witnesses as lacking all signs of vitality and running the risk of dropping down dead, whenever produced before the Magistrate during the trial, are said to have accomplished a wonderful feat of strength. Besides their constitutional weakness both of them were more or less ill at the time when they displayed a mental and

bodily soundness hardly possible for persons enjoying the most robust health and splendid constitution. They had also smuggled to them in the hospital ward guarded by officers and sentinels, two revolvers, one of which is too big to allow of safe concealment. Neither were the rooms so full of miscellaneous furniture as to render secretion practicable. The vigilance and supervision in the jail in these days of coercion and strong Government could not be so lax as is now imagined for explaining the event. We read in the papers only theories, hypotheses and speculations. One assumption contradicts another and the cumulative effect of all only heightens the mystery. There have been attempts at observations and analyses, judgment and conclusion, but to no purpose. There has also been a free play of imagination, but without any plausible solution. Imagination spurred by passion, has not even spared the Hindu ladies who in their unbearable anguish at the prospective fate of their relatives, now and then sought relief in a visit to them. The jail officers and warders also come in for strong suspicion. But the event, after all, wears the appearance of an enigma. There are, indeed, more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

In another article headed "Imperial Theory," the journal strongly refutes the suggestion that lady relatives or friends of the accused had smuggled the revolvers.

1097. The *Bengalee* declares that the gruesome tragedy that was enacted

BENGALIAN.
2nd Sept. 1908.

The Alipore tragedy. at the Alipore Jail on Monday last has staggered the community and has sent a thrill of horror throughout the country. Murder in any shape or form is revolting to the Indian instinct, and it is hoped that the last of the tragic events which for the last few months have cast their sombre hue over the country has been witnessed. Speculation is rife as to how the arms came to be smuggled into the jail. But the journal positively declines to accept the theory that any lady visitors had any hand in the matter. An Indian lady would shudder at the prospect of being mixed up in any attempt at assassination. No matter how unsexed she might be, her whole nature would rise in revolt against an idea of this kind. This matter needs the most careful enquiry. The community will not accept the theory that Indian ladies had anything to do with the smuggling of arms except upon the clearest and the most convincing evidence. And the journal trusts that it is only on such evidence that action will be taken by the authorities.

1098. Considering the circumstances attending the murder of Gossain,

INDIAN MIRROR,
2nd Sept. 1908.

Murder of Norendra Nath Gossain in the Alipore Jail Hospital.

the *Indian Mirror* says the only conclusion that the outside public can come to is that the occurrence would have been impossible, if sufficient vigilance had been displayed by the jail authorities. No matter how the firearms were conveyed to the jail hospital, the fact that they were conveyed shows there has been great laxity in the discipline of the Alipore Jail. The death of the approver Gossain must naturally affect the trial of the accused at the Sessions as the deceased was a material witness for the prosecution. The journal trusts the trial before the Sessions Judge will be taken up and concluded with as much expedition as possible.

1099. Referring to the assassination of Gossain in the Alipore Jail, the

HINDU PATRIOT,
2nd Sept. 1908.

The tragedy in the Alipore Jail.

Hindoo Patriot considers it inconceivable to what length anarchism may proceed, judging by recent events which have shocked humanity and startled the country. It will not do to gloss over its hideous features by raising the plea that anarchism, so far as it has exhibited itself, is nothing but the pranks of misguided youths who have not their heads in proper places, and who were led by their follies into desperate deeds, the full significance of which they were not in a position to estimate. The tragedy perpetrated at the Alipore Jail disposes of this as a silly excuse advanced by men who should have known better and intended to veil, however awkwardly, the real character of a movement that puts the peace and order of the country in great jeopardy. The journal hopes that the investigation now going on will elicit the full facts of the case. It is not to the credit of the Jail authorities that such an event should have occurred in the Jail without anybody having even an inkling of it beforehand. It will be glad if the authorities succeed in clearing themselves of the charge of negligence or laxity of supervision. The firearms may have been clearly smuggled in, but

this will require to be proved beyond the shadow of a doubt. If this theory be accepted, then it must be acknowledged that the prisoners under trial in connection with the conspiracy case are not the simple and unsophisticated creatures that they are generally made out to be, and it becomes a matter of certainty that the anarchists have their confederates or sympathisers still at large.

The journal hopes the authorities will take this view of the matter into their serious consideration, and leave nothing undone to safeguard all peaceful citizens from the violence of the emissaries of anarchism.

1100. The *Bengalee* says:—

BENGALIE,
3rd Sept. 1908.

The Anglo-Indian Press and the Alipore tragedy.

"To some of our Anglo-Indian contemporaries the gruesome tragedy at Alipore has been a veritable god-send. One of them is apparently glad that it affords a striking corroboration of the belief he has always entertained that the men now under trial are not merely foolish youths, but are, some of them, at any rate, criminals of the most determined order. It has further enabled him to suggest that the persons now undergoing trial at Alipore have many sympathisers outside the jail and have large funds at their disposal. These are harmless suggestions, if one could only believe that in the state of panic that prevails advantage would not be taken of them to further harass innocent people. So far as persons against whom there is adequate evidence are concerned, the authorities would no doubt be justified in doing all they can to bring them to justice. When houses are searched or persons arrested on such evidence, the public would not be so foolish as to complain. But unfortunately in some cases of late houses have been searched and persons arrested and detained in *hajat* on evidence which has been found to be incapable of bearing security. That is why public opinion strongly condemns writings in the press which may have the effect of making proceedings of this particular kind more common than they are."

INDIAN MIRROR,
3rd Sept. 1908.

How the back of the extremist organisation is being broken.

1101. According to the *Indian Mirror* the horrible tragedy which has been enacted in the Alipore Jail Hospital, furnishes yet another illustration of the axiom that iniquity eventually recoils upon itself. The fire the anarchist movement has lit is swiftly and surely devouring itself. Five of the actors in the anarchist drama have sealed their doom in a manner which they themselves could not have foreseen when they embarked upon their abominable career. The course of violence ends in violence and nemesis is always at the back of the evil doer. A movement like that of anarchism, founded on principles which run counter to all laws of nature and humanity, must in the end bring its own ruin.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
3rd Sept. 1908.

Murder of Norendra Nath Gossain.

1102. There is one circumstance connected with the murder of Gossain which in the opinion of the *Hindoo Patriot* requires clearing up. It is said the murderers managed to get him to their side by intimating that they would make confessions before him. What business he had to go to take these confessions is not understood. Was he the Father Confessor in the Alipore Jail or did he regard himself in that light in connection with the bomb case? There could not have been anything in any confession that the accused might have made, which he did not know. It was the officiousness of the approver that cost him his life, and the jail authorities would have done well to explain to him his real position.

BANDE MATARAM,
5th Sept. 1908.

1103. Commenting on a recent article in the *Pioneer* regarding the murder of the approver Gossain, *Bande Mataram* says:—

"The *Pioneer* is not afflicted with any disability, and it can give free play to its reason and conscience. No Indian journal has yet been able to speak so honestly of the approver's murder as this organ of the Bureaucracy. That it was reserved for an Anglo-Indian journal to hold up to admiration the work of two of Bengal's youngmen who have raised the credit of our race, is a significant comment on our present political condition. What does it profit us if we gain the whole world and lose our own soul? British rule may have exalted a few of us to drive in motors and to build a magnificent castle fitted up with Tottenham Court Road furniture, but it has robbed us—all—of the right to

express a conscientious opinion about the doings and sayings of our own countrymen."

1104. While expressing its approval of the *Pioneer's* paragraph anent

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th Sept. 1908.

The *Pioneer* on the murder of the murder of the approver, the *Amrita Bazar Gossain*. *Patrika* condemns the adverse criticisms of the four Anglo-Indian papers of Calcutta led by the *Statesman*. It points out that if the *Pioneer* had been a "native," he would have been hanged for his sentiments. What a compliment to Government—what an intelligent reply to the arguments of the *Pioneer*! What the Allahabad paper says, is to the effect that here were two young men, who, knowing full well that they had no other alternative but suicide or the gallows, murdered a man simply to save a number of their fellows and thereby showed self-devotion. If the *Statesman* does not see this, all that can be said is that it has taken leave of its English instincts.

1105. If it is a fact, as stated by the Serampur correspondent of a local

HINDOO PATRIOT,
7th Sept. 1908.

The assassination of Norendra Nath Gossain. contemporary, that three days before the assassination of the approver, a letter was received by his family at Serampur, containing a threat that Gossain would shortly be despatched, the *Hindoo Patriot* considers it extremely regrettable that the members of the family should not have taken the warning seriously and reported the matter to the authorities. Had they done so, the authorities might have taken their ordinary precautionary measures for the safety of the approver. The fact, however, cannot be denied that the approver, on more occasions than one, had been threatened with mortal vengeance by the prisoners in the bomb case. The jail authorities knew this, and yet exercised no extra precautions to prevent the approver coming in the way of the would-be assassins.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.

OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,

The 12th September 1908.

G. C. DENHAM,

Spl. Asst. to the Depy. Insp.-Genl.

of Police, Crime and Railways, Bengal.

